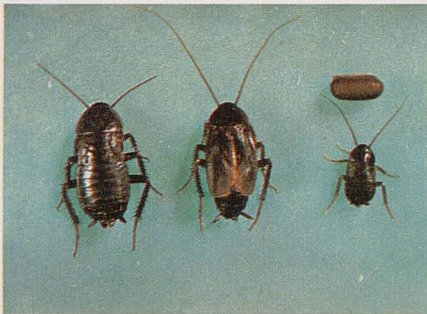


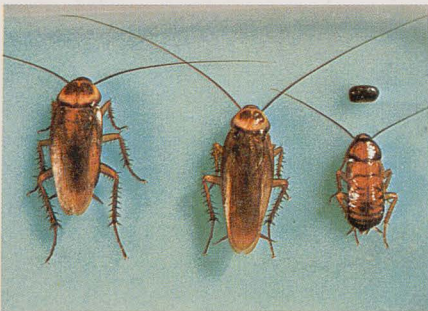


# COMMON HOUSEHOLD PESTS

For safe and effective use of insecticides, always identify the problem correctly.



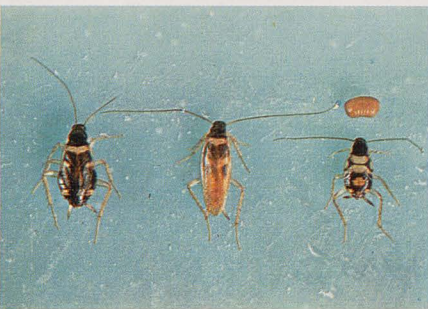
1. Oriental cockroach



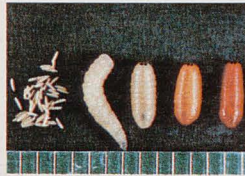
2. American cockroach



3. German cockroach



4. Brown-banded cockroach



5. House fly



6. Black carpet beetle



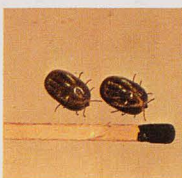
7. Webbing clothes moth



8. Silverfish



9. Flea  
(greatly enlarged)



10. Brown dog tick



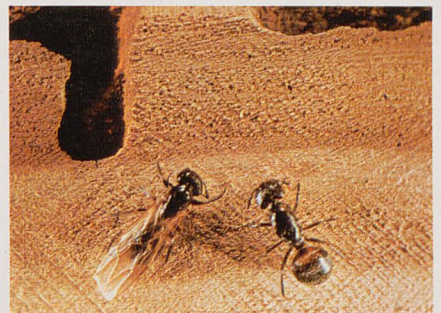
11. Pavement ant



12. Subterranean termite



13. Powder-post beetle



14. Carpenter ant



15. Boxelder bug



## COMMON HOUSEHOLD PESTS

1. **ORIENTAL COCKROACH**, *Blatta orientalis*, Linnaeus. Pictured (l. to r.) are a female, male, nymph, and egg capsule. The oriental cockroach prefers dampness and is sometimes called a "water bug." It is common in basements and may enter through sewer openings.

2. **AMERICAN COCKROACH**, *Periplaneta americana* (Linnaeus). Pictured (l. to r.) are a female, male, nymph, and egg capsule. The American cockroach is large—up to 1½-inches long. It is more common in food establishments, but homes nearby may become infested.

3. **GERMAN COCKROACH**, *Blatella germanica* (Linnaeus). Pictured (l. to r.) are a female, male, nymph, and egg capsule. The German cockroach is the species most commonly found in restaurants, homes, and wherever food is stored or handled. It is often carried into homes on food containers. These insects tend to live in colonies and often occur, especially in kitchens and bathrooms in large numbers.

4. **BROWN-BANDED COCKROACH**, *Supella sellulipes* (Serville). Pictured (l. to r.) are a female, male, nymph, and egg capsule. The brown-banded cockroach is a southern species but thrives in heated houses and buildings elsewhere. It may be a pest throughout an entire house, not just one area. Egg capsules are fastened to objects such as furniture and backs of picture frames. The insects are spread to new locations in furniture and luggage.

5. **HOUSE FLY**, *Musca domestica* Linnaeus. Pictured (l. to r.) are the eggs, stages of development, and adult. Besides a nuisance, the house fly is a contaminator of food and potential disease carrier. It breeds in damp and decaying organic materials and moves readily from such materials to humans and exposed foods. This can result in the spread of disease organisms. Flies are abundant where sanitation is poor and where garbage and refuse are improperly handled.

6. **BLACK CARPET BEETLE**, *Attagenus piceus* (Olivier). Pictured are larvae, shed larval skin, and an adult. The black carpet beetle is one of several species of carpet beetles. The larvae feed on rugs, fabrics, lint, refuse or stored foods. Generally, larvae are found in wall voids, floor cracks, and other hidden places where lint and debris collect, but may roam about and be found throughout a building.

7. **WEBBING CLOTHES MOTH**, *Tineola bisselliella* (Hummel). Picture are the adult moth and a larva in its silken web. Larvae of a closely-related species live in silken cases. Only larvae cause damage by feeding on wool, fur, feathers, and other materials of animal origin. The adult moth is very similar in appearance to the angoumois grain moth, a pest of stored whole grain. But there is one difference—the clothes moth shuns light; the angoumois grain moth doesn't.

8. **SILVERFISH**, *Lepisma saccharina* Linnaeus. Pictured is one of several species that damage book bindings, paper, clothing, and other articles containing protein and starch. Silverfish are fast-moving, about ½-inch long, and prefer warm, humid conditions. The firebrat, a close relative, is darker and prefers hot, dry conditions.

9. **FLEA**, *Ctenocephalides felis* (Bouche). Adult fleas live and feed on dogs, cats, hogs, and other ani-

mals, dropping eggs at random. The larvae then develop on rugs, floors, in kennels and barns, or any place frequented by infested animals. These worm-like scavengers feed on bits of food, dead insects, and other refuse. Some fleas will bite humans, especially if deprived of the animals which are a normal feeding ground.

10. **BROWN DOG TICK**, *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* (Latreille). The brown dog tick lives and breeds indoors. It often infests kennels and parts of buildings where dogs are kept. After feeding, it drops off its host and hides in cracks and crevices. Because of a tendency to climb, brown dog ticks are often found behind cove mouldings, window frames, and in furniture. The American dog tick (not pictured) is generally a nuisance only out-of-doors.

11. **PAVEMENT ANT**, *Tetramorium caespitum* (Linnaeus). The pavement ant is one of many kinds that invade buildings. Most ants nest in the soil and then enter homes in search of food. Warm soil, beneath houses built on concrete slabs is ideal for nesting. In such instances, ants may be a problem in winter as well as summer. Few species nest indoors.

12. **SUBTERRANEAN TERMITE**, *Reticulitermes flavipes* (Kollar). Pictured (l. to r.) are a winged swarmer, worker, and developing reproductive; the one with the large brown head is a soldier. Except for the swarmers, termites live and work in concealment. First they eat the soft grain of wood, then seal up surface breaks with dirt and mud. Subterranean termites usually need contact with the soil to survive. This contact is made through wood touching soil, through shelter tubes built over and inside foundation walls, or through cracks and openings in concrete slabs.

13. **POWDER POST BEETLE**, *Lyctus planicollis* LeConte. Pictured is one type that attacks hardwoods; other kinds infest pine and similar softwoods. Powder post beetles may continually reinfest wood until the interior is reduced to a powdery mass. Adults make numerous "shot holes" in the wood surface when emerging. No soil contact is necessary.

14. **CARPENTER ANT**, *Camponotus pennsylvanicus* (De Geer). Pictured are the winged and wingless forms. Carpenter ants hollow out wood in order to nest. They usually live in the heartwood of dying trees but sometimes nest in homes, especially if the wood is damp. Those living outdoors may enter homes in search of food.

15. **BOXELDER BUG**, *Leptocoris trivittatus* (Say). Pictured (l. to r.) are the nymph and adult. The boxelder bug normally develops on seed-bearing boxelder trees. In fall, the bugs enter homes to hibernate. While not causing damage indoors, the bugs are annoying.

### Current Control Information

The information and color illustrations presented here are designed to help you correctly identify some common household pests. These insects and the problems they cause do not change, but methods of dealing with them do. Contact your local county agent, professional pest control operators, or state extension entomologists for current control methods.